

# 'Drive Out Hunger' Campaign Begins

## 'Empty Bowls' Event & Open House This Saturday

It is time for the annual push to "drive out hunger" in Hardee County.

Hardee Help Center employees and volunteers delivered food collection bins to Central Florida Health Care, the cities of Bowling Green and Wau-chula, First National Bank of Wauchula, the Hardee County Public Library, Suncoast Credit Union, The Herald-Advocate and the town of Zolfo Springs, which are now available to the public as food donation sites.

Preventing hunger can sometimes be as simple as donating food, but other times it calls for a bit of creativeness. Eating pizza doesn't seem like a normal way to drive out hunger, but actually on Wednesday of this week, if you ate at the Wauchula Pizza Hut and presented them with the restaurant coupon code

of No1161, a portion of your bill was donated to the Hardee Help Center.

This Saturday from 4 to 7 p.m. the center will be hosting its Empty Bowls Event & Open House. Meal tickets were pre-sold for \$10 to help raise funds for ongoing services to families throughout the year that are facing food insecurity.

The public is invited to stop by for a tour of the facility and learn more about the services available to Hardee County residents.

Food (soup, salad and bread) will be served throughout the evening for those who pre-purchased tickets, additional soup bowls will be made available for \$10 on a first-come first-served basis.

Individuals and groups that have accepted the Hunger Hero

Challenge to fill a brown bag with food items such as rice, pasta, peanut butter, jelly, canned tuna, Spam, spaghetti sauce and mixed fruit are also encouraged to drop off their donations during this time.

Anyone who wants to take the Hunger Hero Challenge and pick up a brown bag can do so as well.

At 5 p.m. Campaign Sponsors and Hunger Heroes will be recognized, and staff will briefly share with those attending the importance of understanding how hunger can affect someone.

For instance: hunger decreases productivity in adults, creating absences from work and insufficient performance; more than 3.4 million Americans 65 years of age and older live in poverty; costs associated with treating hunger-related ill-

nesses are much higher than prevention costs; and 1 out of 8 is going hungry, even though hunger is preventable.

Be sure to read next week's article on the Drive Out Hunger campaign, the third of five to learn about several upcoming events that you can be involved in right here in Hardee County to help Drive Out Hunger.

For more information about the Hardee Help Center, the Drive Out Hunger campaign, or to download a full copy of the November Activities Calendar, visit [hardeehelpcenter.org](http://hardeehelpcenter.org).

This is the second in a series of five articles on the local month-long efforts to Drive Out Hunger. Each week, a calendar will accompany the story to show activities for the upcoming week.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Ruben Rivas and these children at the YMCA encourage Hardee Countians to stop in and drop off some food items to help the hungry. Supporting the effort (clockwise from bottom left) are George Pizzano, Karley Williams, Mary Hyder, Anabelle Servin, Victor Fabila and Jose Franco.

November 2015						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
8 <b>Read</b> Read a book that focuses on hunger. Children's Title: One potato, Two Potato by Cynthia DeFelice	9 <b>SERVE</b> Call or register on HHC Facebook to SERVE in the food pantry on Nov. 16 <sup>th</sup> or 30 <sup>th</sup> .	10 <b>Give up</b> Give up coffee, pop, or vending machine snacks for one week and estimate the cost and donate that money to hunger relief.	11 <b>Go Casual</b> Organize a Casual/Jeans Day with your employer. Participants can wear jeans for donation and funds will benefit the Hardee Help Center's Drive Out Hunger Campaign.	12 <b>Set an empty plate at your table.</b> Let this be a reminder to you and those at your table of all those who are at risk of hunger.	13 <b>Talk about Hunger with your family.</b> For talking points and hunger facts go to: <a href="http://www.hardeehelpcenter.org">www.hardeehelpcenter.org</a>	14 <b>Walk</b> Organize a Hunger Awareness Walk with a group of friends, family, or co-workers.



Trayce Daniels and Nancy Davis are eager to assist with donations, and are showing the food donation barrel that is about to be placed near the door at The Herald-Advocate office.

### ABOUT ... School News

The Herald-Advocate encourages submissions from Hardee County schools. Photos and write-ups should be of recent events, and must include first and last names for both students and teachers. Identify photos front to back, left to right.

Deadline for submissions is 5 p.m. on Thursday. Please include the name and phone number of a contact person. Qualifying items will be published as space allows.

## Gas Still Predicted To Go Even Lower

The price of gasoline tumbled last week as it continues to adjust to increased supplies and low oil prices.

The average price of gasoline nationwide was \$2.18 on Sunday, a two-cent decline from last week. In Florida, it was \$2.09.

"Prices should remain low through the holiday season," said Mark Jenkins of AAA/The Auto Club Group. "The national average could dip well below \$2 a gallon by Christmas as long as oil prices remain low and there are no interruptions in gasoline supply."

Looking forward, prices typically fall during the final months of the year. Since 2000, gas prices shifted lower by an average 16 cents from November through December. Last year, motorists saw a major drop. The average price fell 74 cents nationwide from Nov. 1 to Dec.

31.

That plunge was largely due to the price of oil falling from \$79.79 to \$53.27 during that same period of time. However, pump prices are unlikely to drop by that same margin again this year, as the price of oil fell to \$45 a barrel mid-summer, kick-starting the discount at the pump that motorists are currently enjoying.

Historically, the price of gas declines by an average of 11 cents nationwide during the month of November alone, dating back to the year 2000.

"It is unclear exactly how low gas prices will go this year, but motorists should expect these low gas prices to hang around through the rest of the year and into February, when another round of refinery maintenance typically causes prices to climb," Jenkins said.